

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LISBON 02054 201938Z
ACTION EUR-12

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R 201705Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY LISBON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5121
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMCONSUL OPORTO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
USMISSION USNATO
DIA WASHDC
CINCLANT NORFOLK VA
COMUSFORAZ LAJES FLD AZ
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER
USNMR SHAPE BRUSSELS BEL

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, PO
SUBJECT: SEPARATISM AN ISSUE

REF: LISBON 1920 (DTG 151655Z/MAR 78)

SUMMARY: PSD PRESIDENT SOUSA FRANCO, MADEIRAN, AND
AZOREAN FIGURES SPOKE OUT ON SEPARATISM. THE FLA HELD A
SEPARATIST RALLY MARCH 18. END SUMMARY.

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PAGE 02 LISBON 02054 201938Z

1. COMMENTS ON SEPARATISM: NATIONAL AND REGIONAL FIGURES
SPOKE OUT LAST WEEK ON THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE CENTRAL
GOVERNMENT AND THE AUTONOMOUS REGIONS OF THE AZORES AND
MADEIRA.

-- SOUSA FRANCO--SEPARATISM DEFENSIBLE: PSD PRESIDENT SOUSA
FRANCO, IN MADEIRA FOR THE SWEARING IN OF THE NEW REGIONAL
GOVERNMENT, DENIED IN A MARCH 17 INTERVIEW ANY PSD LINKS

WITH SEPARATIST, BUT DEFENDED THE RIGHT OF SEPARATISTS
TO THEIR FULL CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS. SOUSA
FRANCO CITED THE SEPARATIST GOVERNMENT OF QUEBEC AS AN
EXAMPLE OF DEMOCRATIC PRACTICE.

--JARDIM REJECTS MADEIRAN INDEPENDENCE: MADEIRAN PSD
LEADER AND NEW PRESIDENT OF THE MADEIRAN REGIONAL GOVERNMENT
ALBERTO JOAO JARDIM DURING HIS INAUGURAL CEREMONY MARCH 17,
STATED THAT THE MADEIRAN GOVERNMENT WAS NEITHER HIERARCHIALLY
SUBORDINATE NOR DEPENDENT ON THE LISBON GOVERNMENT. BUT HE
DID REJECT THE "SUICIDAL ADVENTURE OF INDEPENDENCE PROMOTED
BY POORLY DISGUISED INTERNATIONAL APPETITES."

-- MOTA AMARAL HOPEFUL: AZOREAN REGIONAL GOVERNMENT
PRESIDENT MOTA AMARAL MET MARCH 17 WITH DEFENSE MINISTER
FIRMINO MIGUEL TO DELIVER HIS LIST OF MEASURES NECESSARY
FOR THE CONSOLIDATION OF REGIONAL AUTONOMY. AMARAL EXPRESSED
OPTIMISM THAT DISPUTES WITH THE NEW CENTRAL GOVERNMENT COULD
BE AVOIDED.

-- SEPARATISTS RALLY: FLA LEADER JOSE DE ALMEIDA TOLD A
PONTA DELGADA RALLY MARCH 18 THAT "IF LISBON DOES NOT
ACCEPT NEGOTIATIONS, THE AZOREAN NATIONAL MOVEMENT WILL
UNDERTAKE AN ARMED UPRISING OF THE AZOREAN PEOPLE UNTIL
IT ACHIEVES VICTORY." LISBON PRESS REPORTED THAT 2,000
ATTENDED THE RALLY INCLUDING AMERICAN AND SWISS CORRESPONDENTS.

2. COMMENT: THE EVOLVING RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE
NEW PS/CDS GOVERNMENT AND THE PSD-CONTROLLED REGIONAL
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PAGE 03 LISBON 02054 201938Z

GOVERNMENTS REMAINS UNCERTAIN. AS REPORTED REFTTEL,
HOWEVER, PRESIDENT EANES HAS ALREADY INDICATED THAT THE
PORTUGUESE AUTHORITIES ARE NOT ABOUT TO TAKE ANY NONSENSE
FROM SEPARATISTS.
BLOOMFIELD

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Message Attributes

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